RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday the 8th December, 1987|17 *Agrahayana,* 1909 *(Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock. Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Racket in sending men Illegally to USA

441. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Racket in sending men illegally to USA unearthed in the Capital" which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the llth November, 1987;

(b) if so. what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the persons apprahend-ed in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHID-AMBARAM): (al Yes, Sir.

(b) The modus operandi of the gang was to take the victims to Mexi-co/venezuela/Niqaragua by stamping their passports with forged visas, and from there to push them into the United States of America through the land route.

(c) A case under Section 420|468 71 IPC has been registered and three rsons have been arrested.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Mr. Chairman. Sir, this is not for the first time that such gangs have been operating in India. For so many years so many innocent persons have fallen prey to their nefarious designs. In some of the cases, huge amounts ranging from Rs. lO.OOO to Rs. 15,000 had been lost by such in nocent persons. However, in the present case I would like to ask the honourable Home Minister to tell since when this gang had been operat ing in India and what the Govern ment did before this news item ap peared in *The Hindustan Times* of llth November. Further, Sir I want to know whether this investigation has revealed that there were ■ other people also involved in these operations along with this gang and whether they have been apprehended or not.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, so far as this case is concerned. the victim, one Amardeep Singh, was detected and detained by the police when ne arrived at the Indira Gandhi International Airport on the 22nd of August 1987. Based on his statement, police have arrested three other persons, namely, Afrik Singh, Balbir Singh Sandhu and Vijay Kumar Malhotra. The cases are under investigation. I would not be able to give any more details about the case now. Apart from this case. 14 more cases have been registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Immigration Act, during the period 1-1-1987 to 25-11-1987. twenty persons have been arrested in these cases. Five cases are pending trial eight cases are under investigation and one case has been filed as untraced.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK; Sir, the honourable Home Minister did not reply to my question as to since when this gang had been operating in India.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: As I said, we arrested this person on the 22nd of August 1987. The case is under investigation. Only investigation will reveal when they commenced their operations. It will be too early and premature for me to give any details about the investigation.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: However. I would like to say the honourable Home Minister to tell as

how many persons had fallen prey to their designs and what was the amount received by the members of this gang from them and, also, what as the fate of the persons who had been pushed to America—whether they were allowed to settle there or they were again pushed back to India.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, it is only investigation which will reveal how many other victims have been duped by this gang. As far as Amardeep Singh is concerned, our information is that he paid, firstly, a sum of Rs. 3,500 and again, on the second occasion. Rs. 20,000. But this is again a matter of investigation, and I would not be able to make any categorical statement unless the investigation is complete.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the bon. Minister said that the matter was under investigation and that, therefore he would not be in a position to divulge more information in this regard. I would like to know about those persons who have been illegally taken from Mexico to the US. On the border they have been intercepted, so many have been arrested and they are in custo dy. Secondly, Sir. some of them who had been transported in a refrigerated van have died on the way. I would like to know how many persons died during their travel from Mexico to the US and how many persons are still in the US without any valid passport.

SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM: Sir. the hon. Member's question is apparently based on the newspaper report where a reference has been made to people who have died while being transported in a refrigerated food truck We have no information, we have no reliable or authentic information which corraborates this portion of the story. Secondly, since the matter is under investigation, maybe the investigation will reveal more about it. If I have the information at a later point, I will share it with the House.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY; I also asked how many of them are still in the U.S. That information can be given. How many persons who have been taken to the US without valid passports, are still there. That can be given. Even the Indian Embassy can give it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: With great respect, may I say that the hon. Member made a slight mistake People go with valid passports. What they do not have is a valid visa. They travel on a forged visa. I do not have any information on how many passports have forged visas. Only the investigation will reveal how many people have been duped in this man ner.

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने इस सवाल के उत्तर में यह मान लिया है कि गैर-कानूनी तौर पर कई लोगों को विदेशों में भेजा जा रहा है। मंत्री महोदय ने यह भी कहा है कि अमरदीप सिंह नाम का व्यक्ति और उसके साथ तीन अन्य लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया गया है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि 15 मामले ऐसे हैं जिनमें गैर-कानूनी तरीके से लोगों को बाहर भेजा जा रहा है 15 ग्रुप इस तरह का काम कर रहे हैं और 20 आदमियों के ऊपर कार्यवाही चल रही है यह सूचना, यह इन्फर्मेशन मंत्री महोदय ने सदन को दी। सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि किन-किन देशों में ये गिरोह गैर-कानूनी तौर पर लोगों को बाहर भेजने का काम अंजाम दे रहे हैं? महोदय, सिर्फ अमेरिका में ही नहीं, गल्फ स्टेट्स में भी बड़ी तादाद में लोगों को इस तरह भेजा जा रहा है और लोगों को वहां मुसीबत में छोड़ दिया जाता है।

श्री सभापति : प्रश्न कीजिये।

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : हाल ही में समाचार-पत्रों में यह खबर छपी थी कि थाईलैंड में कई लोगों को ले जाकर छोड़ दिया गया। यह . . .

श्री सभापति : यह प्रश्न यू एस ए० के बारे में है।

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार ने इन गिरोहों को खत्म करने के लिये कड़ी कार्यवाही शुरू की है या नहीं की है ? मंत्री महोदय कहते हैं कि पकड़े गये हैं, जांच हो रही है । मगर सरकार जो लोग इस तरह से गैर-कानूनी तौर पर काम कर रहे हैं उनको रोकने के लिये क्या काम कर रही है ? पकड़े गये हैं तो कितने लोगों को सजा मिली है और कितने लोग बाहर के देशों में ऐसे हैं जो गैर-कानूनी तौर पर इन गिरोहों के द्वारा भेजे गये हैं ? उनकी तादाद क्या है और उनके संबंध में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है, इसके बारे में मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय जरा तफसील से बतायें ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: What are you doing to stop it?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM; Sir, as I said in my answer to the main question, the modus operandi of tho gangs seems to be to take the victims on forged visas to Mexico, Venezuela and Nicaragua. I have no information about anybody being sent on a forged visa to any Gulf country. But. since the hon. Member has made a reference to the Gulf countries, I will try to gather information about it.

We have already, as I said, register. ed 14 cases, out of which as I said, five are under trial, eight are under investigation and one has been filed as untraced. Therefore, we are very active in prosecuting the gangs which indulge in this crime.

SHRI B. SATYANARYAN REDDY: Since what year have you come to know of all these things?

श्री सभापति : अब कोई सवाल नहीं उठता ।

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : जवाब ही नहीं देते हैं ।

श्री सभापति : सवाल तो यू० एस० ए० का है ।

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : यू० एस० ए० का सवाल नहीं है, यह रेकेट का सवाल है जो रेकेट काम कर रहा है देश के अन्दर उसका सवाल है । यू० एस० ए० का नहीं है (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : आप मुझे तय करने दीजिये । श्री कपिल वर्मा ।

SHRl KAPIL VERMA; Sir, Afrik Singh was the main accused in this case. He masterminded the whole conspiracy. In the interrogation he has deposed many things. He has been receiving money from all parts of the world and his bank account, according to the Press Statement of the Police Commissioner, has been sealed and some foreign exchange has been found. I want to know how much money has been found in his lockers, how many other countries have been involved as Afrik Singh has told the Police that he has been sending people to Greece and Germany.

How many people have been sent to these countries. Also, how many Indian nationals are actually in the US jail in this connection?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The hon. Member is basing his question again on the newspaper report which appeared on llth of November. As I said the matter is under investigation and the people are being interrogated. I would not attach credence to the news paper report and say 200 persons are in these countries.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA; This is Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Neeraj Kumar's statement *to* the Press. It is an official statement.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is true that Mr. Neeraj Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of poIice. who is investigating this case, has disclosed the arrest of these three persons and I said the matter is under investigation, but some of the other paragraphs are not statements which Mr. Neeraj Kumar made, but which are based upon the journalist's own source of information. At the moment it would not be correct to say that this naragraph is of Mr. Neeraj Kumar and this paragraph is not.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA; You see the third column. In it, he is very clearly quoting Mr. Neeraj Kumar.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a question of interpretation. Your interpretation and his interpretation are different.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM; It is a way of reading the newspaper reports. I have no quarrel with the hon. Member's way of reading the newspaper reports. I still maintain, tho matter is under investigation and you will kindly allow me not to disclose bits or pieces of information, as the matter is under investigation.

SHRl KAPIL VERMA: How many Indians are in Jail in the US?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That question is a separate one. It does not arise out of it. Next question.

"इस्पात नगरी वायु विकार से पीड़ित" शीर्षक वाला लेख

*442. **श्री शरद यादव :** क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 28 अक्तूबर, 1987 के नवभारत, रायपुर संस्करण (मध्य प्रदेश समूह) में "इस्पात नगरी वायु विकार से पीड़ित" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित लेख की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इस नगर के 90 प्रतिशत लोग इस बीमारी से पीड़ित हैं ; और

(ग) क्या देश के किसी अन्य भाग के लोग भी इसी प्रकार के उदर-रोग से पीड़ित हैं ; यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जैड० आर० अन्सारी) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) जी, नहीं ।

(ग) ऐसी कोई सूचना नहीं है ।

श्री शरद यादव : सभापति महोदय, इस विभाग के जो मंत्री जी हैं जिन्होंने यह जवाब देना था वह नहीं है, दूसरे मंत्री जी जवाब दे रहे हैं तो इस पर मेरा विरोध है क्योंकि आज जवाब मुझे भजन लाल जी से पूछना था ।

श्री सभापति : आप तो पुराने मैम्बर हैं, आप जानते हैं ।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : वो डर गये हैं ।

श्री शरद यादव : आप ठीक कह रहे हैं ।

श्री सभापति : ठीक कह रहे हैं या नहीं बाद में तय कर लीजियेगा बाहर जा कर ।

श्री शरद यादव : यह जो जवाब आया है यह बिलकुल ठीक जवाब नहीं है और बगैर जांच के यह जवाब आया है । भिलाई के पूरे अस्पताल—चाहे सरकारी हों या गैर सरकारी हों—आज भी वायु की जो बीमारी है पेट की बीमारी है उदर की बीमारी है उससे पीड़ित लोग वहां पर हैं । इस पर सरकार ने जो अपना जवाब दिया है वह बिलकुल सतही तौर पर दिया है । मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं आपके माध्यम से कि क्या वे अपनी तरफ से निश्चित तरीके से जांच कराएंगे क्योंकि पूरे देश में पानी और वायु के प्रदूषण का सवाल फैला हुआ है और उसको कारगर ढंग से हम लोग कर नहीं पा रहे हैं । मैंने इस सम्बन्ध में एक ऐसा सवाल पहले भी पूछा था उसका जवाब भी इसी तरह से सतही मिला था । भजन लाल जी ने कारगर उपाय यह किया था कि बड़े-बड़े कारखानेदारों के पास नोटिस भेज कर कुछ सख्ती बरतने का जो उनका पुराना परम्परागत काम है उसमें बढ़ोतरी का काम किया था । इसलिए मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या वे इस मामले में एक विशेष जांच कराएंगे क्योंकि अखबारों में इस तरह के समाचार छपे हैं और वहां की सामाजिक और